

**TRANSITION TO ADULT LIVING
IMPLEMENTATION TEAM
MAY 5, 2004
MINUTES**

WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richard Anderson welcomed everyone, particularly the new Youth Council members who met yesterday and today to assist in setting program and policy guidelines for the Independent Living Program. The youth are from around the state and joined in the Foster Care Rally at the Capitol this morning. They also met previously in many of the Task Groups to give input and feedback.

Richard congratulated Barbara Feaster and her co-sponsors for organizing the successful rally. He also congratulated Eric Jenkins who received one of the awards given at the rally. Richard complemented youths Kristin Larson, Tiffany Martin and Adrian Garden for speaking at the rally. They did a great job.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM TASK GROUPS

Mentoring Task Group—Lisa McDonald asked for direction/approval from the Implementation Team on both pilot projects. We previously approved the Western Region Mentoring Program but DCFS felt that couldn't be done by the Utah Foster Care Foundation under their current contract. Both that pilot and the Senior Mentoring pilot need to go out on RFP's. (Request for Proposal) Richard Anderson mentioned that he would look for funds to attach to the RFP's (approximately \$37,500 is requested between the 2 proposals). The Mentoring Task Group can decide where to offer the pilot programs. Lisa will email the final drafts to Implementation Team members and will accept comments and feedback until May 20th—then the projects will have the final approval at that point.

Physical & Mental Health Task Group—George Delavan explained the need for a class to teach youth with mental health issues to increase their ability to self-manage their illness, the medications, etc. The task group wants to pilot a program with NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-Utah) in Utah County to determine the effectiveness of using this method of helping teens. NAMI would furnish the instructors free of charge and work with the Independent Living Program in Provo. The Implementation Team approved this pilot project.

Employment/Training/Education Task Group—Marie Christman updated the team on previously approved items such as the ETV (Education/Training Voucher) and the pilot in Northern Region with DWS, DCFS and DYC. These items need specific work by DCFS administration and DWS administration in order to finalize the ETV Rule, identify the process/pathway to implement the

voucher, and set up the contract. Richard mentioned Cosette Mills is working on the contract now. We also need someone from DWS to work on the contract. Also, Marie mentioned approval is needed from the respective administrations for Northern Region DWS, DCFS, and DYC to move ahead with the pathways pilot.

Website Task Group—Kelly Colopy passed around a copy of the list of items the youth wanted on the Website listing the priority ranking the youth had given each item. The youth most wanted Employment and Education information, followed by Housing and Health information. The task group will focus on providing these items first on the website.

DATA WAREHOUSE

Leonard Johnson and Amanda Singer reported on the data that has been collected regarding youth who have “aged out” of the foster care system since 1999. (Their complete report will be attached to the minutes.)

The data shows that a significant number of youths have no jobs, low wages, some have been involved in criminal activity, many young women have had children, and many are receiving some type of public assistance.

Leonard will be gathering a number of other types of data and will make that information available to the Implementation Team. It should help task groups to focus on problem areas to improve outcomes for our youth.

Melissa Larsen has some information from the Homeless Youth Resource Center survey that will provide housing information. Leonard is also seeking better educational data. As he is able to gather information from various departments or organizations, Leonard will make the information available to the Implementation Team.

NGA POLICY ACADEMY REPORT & DISCUSSION

Amanda Singer presented a power-point presentation regarding the work the Core Team did at the NGA Policy Academy in Arizona last month. Our Core Team focused on the Vision, Goals and Strategies that will help us improve the outcomes for our youth exiting foster care.

Each of the task groups should look closely at these strategies and action steps to see that the work of their groups are connected and working on accomplishing the desired outcomes. (The worksheet from the power-point presentation will be attached to the minutes)

Robin Arnold-Williams noted that a culture change is needed throughout the entire Division of Child and Family Services, not just the Independent Living (IL)

Coordinators. This same culture change is needed from each of our partners and the organizations they represent.

Robin will be meeting with Governor Walker in the near future to update her on our progress. She wants to be able to tell the Governor what we have accomplished and what we will need from her in order to implement the other goals of this initiative.

Marie Christman mentioned that we need sustainability for our goals and be able to market them. All of this must be based on positive outcomes.

Ron Harrell asked if we are ready to tell the youth there is something for them if they come back for services. Ron feels we have parts of the process but we need to put these processes into a package or a model—then we can market it.

Richard Anderson said DCFS will be sending out new practice guidelines as these recommendations come forth from the Implementation Team.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Lisa McDonald mentioned that her proposal has been accepted for presentation at the Daniel Memorial Conference in September. A small group from Utah will present information about the Utah Independent Living program and the progress made over the past several years.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 2, 2004 at 2:30pm in Room 304 at the Department of Human Services.

ATTACHMENTS

Assessing Outcomes of Youth Transitioning From Foster Care
Transition to Adult Living Initiative—Vision, Goals, Strategies

Implementation Team Members and Support Staff Attending:

Robin Arnold-Williams
Richard Anderson
Jim Anderson
Marie Christman
George Delavan
Barbara Feaster
Ron Harrell
Steve Jardine

Lisa McDonald
Savana Tsosie
Richard Walker
Jane Broadhead
Herman Hooten
Suzette Martellaro
Amanda Singer
Barbara Thompson

Youth Council Members Attending:

Karen Lydia Suarez
Jeremy Larsen
Mikail Katlov
Kristin Larson
Keirsten Orton
Michelle Barnett
Paige Vincent

Jason Martini
Zachery Bott
Adrian Garden
Linzie Smith (attended earlier)
Tiffany Martin (attended earlier)
Ray Dipo (attended earlier)

Task Group Members and Other Guests Attending:

Leonard Johnson
Mary Jane McGuire
Melissa Larsen
B. Nathan Ponis
Irina Pierpont
Rebecca Banner
Terri Harris

Joeann Bartlett
Ken Hull
Chris Chytraus
Kathy Dimick
Steve Titensor
Kelly Colopy
Ann Foster